

**THAT CLAIMED IS:**

1. A portable utility power line pole comprising:

a main utility power line pole body adapted to be held in the hand of a user and having a proximal main body end, a distal main body end, and an outer main body surface;

a utility power line tool connector connected to the distal main body end and adapted to mount a utility power line tool for use in association with electrical power distribution lines; and

an alignment indicator in the form of a visible line positioned on the outer main body surface in alignment with the utility power line tool connector to provide the user continuous visualization of a user selected orientation of the utility power line tool when mounted on the utility power line tool connector and when the user manipulates the portable utility power line pole at the proximal main body end of the main utility power line pole body to select the orientation of the utility power line tool.

2. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 1, wherein the alignment indicator extends substantially the lengthwise extent of a visible portion of the main utility power line pole body.

3. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 1, wherein the main utility power line pole body includes a plurality of collapsible and telescoping tubular shaped pole segments adapted to be positioned between an extended position and a retracted position, each of the plurality of pole segments having a proximal pole segment end, a distal pole segment end, an outer pole segment surface, and an inner pole segment surface, wherein a first pole segment of the plurality of pole segments is connected to the utility power line tool connector, wherein a second pole segment of the plurality of pole segments includes an inner pole segment surface positioned to receive at least portions of the first pole segment therein so that portions of the inner pole segment surface of the second pole segment substantially surround portions of the outer pole segment surface of the first pole segment when the first pole segment is collapsed in the retracted position.

4. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 2, further comprising:

a utility power line tool connector housing connected to the distal main body end, positioned to house the utility power line tool connector, and having a proximal tool connector housing end, a distal tool connector housing end, an outer tool connector housing surface, an inner tool connector housing surface, and a tool connector housing chamber positioned between the proximal and distal tool connector housing ends and the inner tool connector housing surface and positioned to receive at least a portion of the main utility power line pole body therein so that portions of the inner connector housing surface adjacent the proximal tool connector housing end substantially surround portions of the distal main body end of the main utility power line pole body, and wherein the utility power line tool connector includes a retractable and extendable hook member adapted to be positioned between an open hook position and a closed hook position such that the hook member is substantially positioned within the tool connector housing chamber when in a retracted and closed hook position and extends outwardly from the tool connector housing chamber when in an extended and open hook position; and

a hook controller connected between the proximal main body end of the main utility power line pole body and the retractable and extendable hook member and responsive to the user of the portable utility power line pole to retract and to extend the hook member along a plane parallel with a plane passing between the alignment indicator and a center of the main utility power line pole body to thereby mount and release the utility power line tool.

5. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 3, wherein the second pole segment includes an opening positioned adjacent the distal pole segment end thereof, wherein the first pole segment of the main utility power line pole body further includes a collapsible lock member positioned adjacent the proximal pole segment end of the first pole segment and adapted to extend through the opening in the distal pole segment end of the second pole segment when in a non-collapsed and biased outward lock position and when the portable utility power line pole is

in the extended position and adapted to collapse inward responsive to an inward pressure from an inner pole segment surface of the second pole segment when in an unlocked position within the second pole segment and not visible to the user and when the portable utility power line pole is in the retracted position, wherein the alignment indicator on the outer main body surface is a first alignment indicator positioned on the outer pole segment surface of the second pole segment, wherein the first pole segment includes a second alignment indicator to indicate radial position of the collapsible lock member, and wherein the first and second alignment indicators are positioned such that a combination of first and second alignment indicators visibly indicate to the user a relative position of the collapsible lock member with respect to the opening positioned adjacent the distal pole segment end of the second pole segment when the at least portions of the first pole segment are positioned within the second pole segment and not visible to the user to thereby assist the user in maintaining continuous alignment of the collapsible lock member with the opening in the distal second pole segment end during extension of the first pole segment from within the second pole segment to lock the first pole segment with the second pole segment when in the extended position.

6. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 5, wherein the combination of the first and second alignment indicators further provide the user visualization of the orientation of the utility power line tool when the plurality of collapsible and telescoping tubular shaped pole segments are in the extended position as well as the retracted position.

7. A portable utility power line pole comprising:

a power line pole body adapted to be positioned between an extended position and a retracted position, adapted to be held in the hand of a user, and having a proximal body end, a distal body end, and a plurality of collapsible and telescoping tubular shaped pole segments therebetween, the plurality of the collapsible and telescoping tubular shaped pole segments including:

a first pole segment having a proximal first pole segment end, a distal first pole segment end, and an outer first pole segment surface and an inner first pole segment surface extending therebetween, and adapted to mount a utility power line tool connector to the distal first pole end thereon, and

a second pole segment having a proximal second pole end, a distal second pole end, a second pole opening positioned adjacent the distal second pole end thereof, an outer second pole segment surface and an inner second pole segment surface extending therebetween, the inner second pole segment surface positioned such that the second pole segment receives at least portions of the first pole segment within the tubular portions of the second pole segment so that portions of the inner second pole segment surface substantially surround portions of the outer first pole segment surface when the first pole segment is collapsed in the retracted position;

a collapsible lock member positioned adjacent the proximal first pole segment end of the first pole segment, adapted to extend through the second pole opening in the distal second pole segment end when in a non-collapsed and biased outward lock position and when the power line pole body is in the extended position, and adapted to collapse inward responsive to inward pressure from an inner second pole segment surface when in an unlocked position within the second pole segment and not visible to the user and when the power line pole body is in the retracted position; and

an alignment indicator positioned on the outer first pole segment surface to visibly indicate to the user a radial position of the collapsible lock member when the at least portions of the first pole segment are positioned within the second pole segment and not readily visible to the user to thereby assist the user in maintaining continuous alignment of the collapsible lock member with the second pole opening in the second pole segment during extension of the first pole segment from within the second pole segment to lock the first pole segment with the second pole segment when in the extended position.

8. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 7, wherein the alignment indicator on the outer first pole segment surface is a first alignment indicator and the outer second pole segment surface further includes a second alignment indicator positioned thereon, and wherein the first and second alignment indicators align with each other to define a visible line that extends substantially the lengthwise extent of the utility power line pole.

9. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 8, further comprising the utility power line tool connector adapted to mount a utility power line tool and connected to the distal first pole end of the first pole segment of the power line pole body, and wherein the visible line extending substantially the lengthwise extent of the utility power line pole aligns with a user selected orientation of the utility power line tool when mounted on the utility power line tool connector to provide the user visualization of the orientation of the utility power line tool when the first and second pole segments are in the extended position and when the user manipulates the portable utility power line pole adjacent the proximal body end of the power line pole body.

10. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 9, wherein the collapsible lock member of the first pole segment is a first collapsible lock member, wherein the second pole segment has a second collapsible lock member adjacent the proximal end thereof, wherein the utility power line pole further includes a third pole segment also having a proximal third pole end, a distal third pole end, an outer third pole segment surface, and an inner third pole segment surface positioned

such that the third pole segment receives at least portions of the second pole segment within the tubular portions of the third pole segment, wherein the third pole segment further has a second pole opening positioned adjacent the distal third pole end thereof and positioned to receive the second collapsible lock member of the second pole segment when in the extended position, and wherein the second alignment indicator on the outer second pole segment surface is positioned to continuously visibly indicate to the user a radial position of the second collapsible lock member when the at least portions of the second pole segment are positioned within the third pole segment and not visible to the user to thereby assist the user in maintaining continuous alignment of the second collapsible lock member with the third pole opening during extension of the second pole segment from within the third pole segment to lock the second pole segment with the third pole segment when in the extended position.

11. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 10, wherein the outer third pole segment surface further includes a third alignment indicator positioned thereon, and wherein the second and third alignment indicators further align with each other to further enhance ease of alignment to readily align the second collapsible lock member with the third pole opening during extension of the second pole segment from within the third pole segment.

12. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 11, wherein the first, second, and third alignment indicators align with each other to further define the visible line that extends substantially the lengthwise extent of the utility power line pole to further enhance the ease of alignment to provide the user continuous visualization of the orientation of the utility power line tool when manipulating the portable utility power line pole adjacent the proximal body end of the power line pole body.

13. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 9, wherein the power line tool connector is positioned such that the utility power line tool is vertically aligned with the visible line when positioned thereon.

14. A portable utility power line pole comprising:

a power line pole body adapted to be positioned between an extended position and a retracted position, adapted to be held in the hand of a user, and having a proximal body end, a distal body end, and a plurality of collapsible and telescoping tubular shaped pole segments therebetween, the plurality of the collapsible and telescoping tubular shaped pole segments including:

a first pole segment having a proximal first pole segment end, a distal first pole segment end, and an outer first pole segment surface and an inner first pole segment surface extending therebetween, and adapted to mount a utility power line tool connector to the distal first pole end thereon, and

a second pole segment having a proximal second pole end, a distal second pole end, an outer second pole segment surface and an inner second pole segment surface extending therebetween, the inner second pole segment surface positioned such that the second pole segment receives at least portions of the first pole segment within the tubular portions of the second pole segment so that portions of the inner second pole segment surface substantially surround portions of the outer first pole segment surface when the first pole segment is collapsed in the retracted position;

means for connecting the proximal first pole segment end of the first pole segment to the distal second pole segment end of the second pole segment; and

an alignment indicator positioned on the outer pole segment surface of the first pole segment to visibly indicate to the user a radial position of the means for connecting the proximal first pole segment end to the distal second pole segment end when the at least portions of the first pole segment are positioned within the second pole segment and not readily visible to the user to thereby assist the user in maintaining continuous alignment of the means for connecting the proximal first pole end to the distal second pole end during extension of the first pole segment from within the second pole segment to lock the first pole segment with the second pole segment when in the extended position.

15. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 14, wherein the alignment indicator on the first pole segment is a first alignment indicator and the second pole segment further includes a second alignment indicator positioned thereon, and wherein the first and second alignment indicators align with each other to define a visible line that extends substantially the lengthwise extent of the utility power line pole.

16. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 15, further comprising the utility power line tool connector adapted to mount a utility power line tool and connected to the distal first pole end of the first pole segment of the power line pole body, and wherein the visible line extending substantially the lengthwise extent of the utility power line pole aligns with a user selected orientation of the utility power line tool when mounted on the utility power line tool connector to provide the user visualization of the orientation of the utility power line tool when the first and second pole segments are in the extended position and when the user manipulates the portable utility power line pole adjacent the proximal body end of the power line pole body.

17. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 16, wherein the means for connecting the proximal first pole segment end to the distal second pole segment end includes a first collapsible lock member positioned adjacent the proximal first pole end and a second pole opening positioned adjacent the distal second pole end thereof.

18. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 16, further comprising a third pole segment having a proximal third pole end, a distal third pole end, an outer third pole segment surface, and an inner third pole segment surface positioned to receive at least portions of the second pole segment within the tubular portions of the third pole segment, and means for connecting the proximal second pole segment end of the second pole segment to the distal third pole segment end of the third pole segment, and wherein the second alignment indicator is further positioned



on the outer second pole segment surface to visibly indicate to the user a radial position of the means for connecting the proximal second pole segment end to the distal third pole segment end when the at least portions of the second pole segment are positioned within the third pole segment and not readily visible to the user to thereby assist the user in maintaining continuous alignment of the means for connecting the proximal second pole end to the distal third pole end during extension of the second pole segment from within the third pole segment to lock the second pole segment with the third pole segment when in the extended position.

19. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 18, wherein the means for connecting the proximal first pole segment end to the distal second pole segment end includes a first collapsible lock member positioned adjacent the proximal first pole end and a second pole opening positioned adjacent the distal second pole end thereof, wherein the means for connecting the proximal second pole segment end to the distal third pole segment end includes a second collapsible lock member positioned adjacent the proximal second pole end and a third pole opening positioned adjacent the distal third pole end thereof, wherein the outer third pole segment surface includes a third alignment indicator positioned thereon, and wherein the second and third alignment indicators further align with each other as well to extend the length of the visible line to further enhance ease of alignment to readily align the second collapsible lock member with the third pole opening during extension of the second pole segment from within the third pole segment.

20. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 18, wherein the outer third pole segment surface includes a third alignment indicator positioned thereon, and wherein the second and third alignment indicators further align with each other as well to extend the length of the visible line to further enhance ease of alignment to provide the user continuous visualization of the orientation of the utility power line tool when manipulating the portable utility power line pole at the proximal body end of the utility power line pole.

21. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 19, wherein the first, second, and third alignment indicators align with each other to further define the visible line that extends substantially the lengthwise extent of the utility power line pole to further enhance the ease of alignment to provide the user continuous visualization of the orientation of the utility power line tool when manipulating the portable utility power line pole adjacent the proximal body end of the power line pole body.

22. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 21, wherein the power line tool connector is positioned such that the utility power line tool is vertically aligned with the visible line when positioned thereon.

23. A portable utility power line pole comprising:

a utility power line pole body adapted to be held in the hand of a user and having a proximal pole body end, a distal pole body end, and an outer pole body surface;

a utility power line tool connector housing connected to the distal pole body end and having a proximal tool connector housing end, a distal tool connector housing end, and an outer tool connector housing surface and an inner tool connector housing surface extending therebetween, and a tool connector housing chamber positioned between the proximal and distal tool connector housing ends and the inner tool connector housing surface and positioned to receive at least a portion of the distal pole body end therein so that portions of the inner tool connector housing surface adjacent the proximal tool connector housing end substantially surround portions of the distal pole body end;

a utility power line tool connector housed within the utility power line tool connector housing, adapted to mount a utility power line tool thereon for use in association with electrical power distribution lines, and including a retractable and extendable hook member adapted to be positioned between an open hook position and a closed hook position such that the hook member

is substantially positioned within the tool connector housing chamber when in a retracted and closed hook position and extends outwardly from the tool connector housing chamber when in an extended and open hook position;

a hook controller connected between the proximal end of the pole body and the hook member and responsive to the user of the portable utility power line pole to extend and to retract the hook member in a plane parallel with a plane passing between the alignment indicator and center of the utility power line pole body; and

an alignment indicator positioned on the outer pole body surface and aligning with a user selected orientation of the hook member to provide the user continuous visualization of an orientation of the hook member when manipulating the portable utility power line pole at the proximal pole body end.

24. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 23, wherein the alignment indicator is in the form of a visible line that extends substantially the lengthwise extent of at least the visible extents of the outer pole body surface.

25. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 24, wherein the hook member extends outwardly away from the alignment indicator when in an extended and open hook position.

26. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 23, further comprising a second utility power line tool connector adapted to mount a second utility power line tool for use in association with electrical power distribution lines and connected to the proximal pole body end of the pole body, and wherein the alignment indicator also aligns with the user selected orientation of the second utility power line tool connector to provide the user visualization of the orientation of the second utility power line tool when mounted to the second utility power line tool connector and when the user is manipulating the portable utility power line pole at the distal pole body end.

27. A method for assembling a portable utility power line pole adapted to be held in the hand of a user for use in association with electrical power distribution lines comprising the steps of:

providing a power line pole body including a plurality of collapsible and telescoping tubular shaped pole segments, a first pole segment prepositioned within a second pole segment having an inner second pole segment surface positioned such that a proximal first pole end of the first pole segment is collapsed in a retracted position into a distal second pole end of the second pole segment, the first and second pole segments having respective first and second alignment indicators positioned on an outer pole segment surface of each of the first and second pole segments and which form a pair of adjacent alignment indicators, at least one of the first and second alignment indicators extending substantially the lengthwise extent of the respective first and second outer pole segment surfaces; and

connecting a collapsible lock member positioned adjacent the proximal first pole end of the first pole segment and in alignment with the alignment indicator of the first outer pole segment surface through a distal second pole opening positioned adjacent the distal second pole end of the second pole segment and in alignment with the second alignment indicator of the second outer pole segment surface by extending the first pole segment from the retracted position within the second pole segment while viewing the pair of alignment indicators to maintain continuously alignment of the collapsible lock member with the opening in the distal second pole end of the second pole segment during such extension.

28. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 27, wherein the first and second alignment indicators are each in the form of a visible line that extends substantially the lengthwise extent of at least visible extents of the respective outer pole segment surface.

29. A method for using a portable utility power line pole on electrical power distribution lines comprising the steps of:

providing an assembled portable utility power line pole adapted to be held in the hand of a user and comprising a pole body having a distal pole body end, a power line tool connector connected to the distal pole body end and adapted to mount a power line tool for use in association with electrical power distribution lines, and an alignment indicator positioned on an outer pole body surface of the pole body in alignment with the power line tool connector to provide the user continuous visualization of a user selected orientation of the power line tool when mounted on the power line tool connector and when the user manipulates the portable utility power line pole at a proximal pole body end of the pole body to select the orientation of the power line tool;

mounting the power line tool to the power line tool connector in alignment with the alignment indicator to provide the user visualization of the orientation of the power line tool when manipulating the portable utility power line pole; and

manipulating the portable utility power line pole while viewing the alignment indicator at the proximal pole body end of the pole body to maintain continuous visualization of the orientation of the utility power line tool at the distal pole body end of the portable utility power line pole.

30. A portable utility power line pole of Claim 29, wherein the alignment indicator is in the form of a visible line that extends substantially the lengthwise extent of at least the visible extents of the outer pole body surface.